

“ONTRACK”

WALTON-ON-NAZE, FRINTON-ON-SEA, KIRBY X & THORPE-LE-SOKEN RAIL USERS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF AGM 16/05/2009

Held at Frinton Methodist Church Hall

1. **Introduction and Welcome:**

- The meeting was opened at 10.35 by the Chairman.

2. **Minutes of the 2008 AGM:**

- These were read and adopted unanimously.

3. **Matters arising:**

- **Frinton Gates:** John Downes enquired whether the level crossing order was signed before removal of the gates. Chairman confirmed that it was, but at the “very last minute.” It was also noted that the barriers had been lowered early (before the train was due to leave Walton) on more than one occasion, including the 15th May, so that passengers from outside the “gates” had been unable to catch their train. The possibility of re-opening the footbridge to provide access from outside the “gates” was also raised.

4. **Annual Report of the Association’s Activities:** The Annual Report for 2008-9, which was handed out at the meeting, was reviewed:

- It was noted that the programme of work regarding **re-signalling** between Colchester and Walton-on-the-Naze was nearing completion, including conversion of Burrs Road level crossing to remotely controlled barriers.
- Following lobbying by user groups, the introduction of **Ticket Inspectors and Transport Police Officers** to combat fare evasion and unruly behaviour by certain passengers had been deemed a success and was to be rolled out on other routes.
- Possible **timetable modifications** had been submitted to NXEA which demonstrated how services to stations along the Clacton and Walton lines could be improved.

5. **Treasurer’s Report:**

- The Treasurer’s Report showed an excess of income over expenditure of £68.63 and an overall balance of £481.59.

6. **Membership Secretary’s Report:**

- There is a need to recruit new members as the income from subscriptions had fallen over the years from £112 to £70, although income had been static for the previous two years.

The Annual, Treasurer’s and Membership Secretary’s reports were then adopted unanimously.

7. **Election of Officers:**

- The Chairman, John Smock, Vice-Chairman, Tony Bedford, Acting Secretary, Tony Baxter and Membership Secretary/Acting Treasurer, David Payne, stood down.
- Existing officers offered themselves for re-election with the proviso that additional assistance was needed in the running of the Association.
- Consequently, John Smock was proposed as Chairman, Tony Bedford as Vice-Chairman, Tony Baxter as Acting Secretary, Dave Bolton as Assistant Secretary, David Payne as Treasurer/Assistant Membership Secretary, and Ray Gilmour as Membership Secretary/Assistant Treasurer.
- With no other nominations, the above appointments were accepted unanimously.

8. **Clacton/Walton Line Re-signalling:**

- It was noted that the track re-modelling and re-signalling at Clacton had been postponed for five years. The plans had been modified to retain Platform 1 rather than incorporate the trackbed of this platform road into the car park.

9. NXEA Operations and Performance:

- Network Rail had commenced a programme of replacement of the overhead line equipment on the Great Eastern main line in order to improve performance. It is planned that this would be completed by 2012, but unfortunately means that the main line will not be fully available for traffic on most Sundays until the work is completed.

10. Any Questions Current Operational / Service Issues:

- None was raised.

11. Any Other Business:

- The next AGM to be held in May 2010, precise date to be confirmed.
- There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 12.00.

A. C. Baxter
Acting Hon. Sec.